



## Utility Rates Provide Essential Services

Seattle Public Utilities provides high-quality drinking water, recycling, garbage pickup, sewer and stormwater drainage services that protect public health and promote city livability. Our purpose is simple – we meet essential community needs while taking into account financial, environmental and social costs.

### How We Are Making a Better Seattle

**Solid Waste:** To help the city meet its 21st century recycling goals, Seattle completed construction of a new \$56 million state-of-the-art Recycling and Disposal Station in South Park.

**Water:** Our annual Water Quality Report finds that Seattle's tap water continues to be some of the best in the nation.

**Drainage:** A negotiated first-of-its-kind agreement with federal and state regulators will ensure the systematic control of Seattle's chronic sewage overflows, while being cost-effective – saving the city approximately \$375 million over the next 13 years.

### Typical Residential Bill per Month

Service	2012	2013
Water <sup>1</sup>	\$ 33.95	\$ 36.38
Sewer <sup>2</sup>	\$ 45.92	\$ 50.10
Drainage <sup>3</sup>	\$ 21.81	\$ 24.10
Solid Waste <sup>4</sup>	\$ 37.00	\$ 39.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$138.68</b>	<b>\$149.88</b>

<sup>1</sup> Typical residential bills assume monthly water usage of 5.5 ccf (hundred cubic feet) for peak period water usage and 4.7 ccf for off-peak period water usage.

<sup>2</sup> About 65 percent of Seattle's sewer rate goes to pay King County for sewer treatment. Typical residential bills assume monthly sewer usage of 4.3 ccf.

<sup>3</sup> Drainage fees are billed for SPU as a separate line item on King County's annual property tax statements. The typical bill is a median bill.

<sup>4</sup> New solid waste rates take effect April 2013. Typical residential garbage service is a 32-gallon garbage container and 96-gallon yard waste service.

## Cold Weather burst your pipes?

Below-freezing temperatures can burst water pipes around your home, potentially causing serious property damage and wasting large amounts of water.

While burst pipes are usually easy to spot, smaller breaks often go unnoticed, so regularly check these areas for leaks:

- Make sure outdoor faucets aren't dripping and if you can access the pipe that feeds the faucet, inspect it for any leaks.
- Check sprinkler heads for leaks, and look for unusually damp sections in your garden, which may point to an underground leak.
- Pipes in your basement, crawlspace or garage are often subjected to freezing temperatures so look for wet spots or puddles on the ground.
- Inspect the pipes for tankless water heaters that run along the exterior of your house for leaks.
- Check any indoor sink pipes that are against exterior walls.

For more information on preparing water pipes for winter weather, visit [www.takewinterbystorm.org](http://www.takewinterbystorm.org).



## Winter Collections

Garbage, recycling, and food and yard waste pickups can be delayed during snowy and icy weather. Check for delays in your collection at [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util), on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/SeattleSPU](http://www.twitter.com/SeattleSPU), or blog [AtYourService.seattle.gov](http://AtYourService.seattle.gov).

Collections will be on normal schedule for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 21, and Presidents Day, Monday, February 18. Put containers out by 7 a.m. to ensure collection.

You can report a missed garbage, food and yard waste or recycling collection after 6 p.m. on the day it was missed online at [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) or by calling **206-684-3000** the next business day.

**New Cart Delivery Fee** - Beginning January 2013, customers will be charged a delivery fee for their second cart or can delivery request within a 12-month period. The fee will be \$22.85.





## Free class!

Keep oil and other fluid leaks from your car from harming local waterways and wildlife. Join the experts at South Seattle Community College's Automotive Technology Program for a FREE auto leaks class – a \$45 value! Watch this video and hear what past participants have to say: [www.youtube.com/FixOilLeaks](http://www.youtube.com/FixOilLeaks). Learn where most leaks occur and how to fix them. All participants get their car assessed and receive a free spill kit.

Classes are offered on Saturday's from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on January 19, February 16, and March 16.

Email [idris.beauregard@seattle.gov](mailto:idris.beauregard@seattle.gov) or call 206-684-3056 to register.

Check out [www.seattle.gov/util/cartips](http://www.seattle.gov/util/cartips) for more information on properly maintaining your automobile to protect waterways.

## Resolve to Compost in 2013

Did you know all apartment and condo properties must subscribe to food waste collection? If you are a resident at a property that does not yet have a green food and yard waste cart available, contact your manager to ask about this service. If the manager is not willing to provide this service, call 206-684-7665 for assistance.

On an average, 35 residential units create about one ton of compostable food waste per year. That's a lot of food waste that can be diverted from the landfill. Way to go, Seattle! Learn more at [www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste](http://www.seattle.gov/util/apartmentfoodwaste).



## Payment Reminder Calls

Beginning in January, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and Seattle City Light (SCL) will begin automated calls to residential and commercial customers who are late in paying their bills.

Customers will receive these courtesy reminders for the following reasons:

- Helping customers avoid late payment penalties.
- Making customers aware of our utility discount program, where qualifying households can get assistance in the form of half off both their utility bills. Learn more at [www.seattle.gov/mybill](http://www.seattle.gov/mybill).

Things to remember about the calls:

- The calls are automated and no personal account information is exchanged or requested.
- Customers may continue to make payments online at [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util) or 206-684-3000 or by mail.

## Seattle Keeps Pollution Out of Lower Duwamish Waterway – and You Can Too!

City inspectors are hard at work keeping contamination out of the Lower Duwamish Waterway. The waterway is a treasure for recreation, fishing, tribal culture and commerce. It is also slated for cleanup under the federal Superfund Cleanup Program. That means it's important to keep contamination out of stormwater so it doesn't wind up in the waterway. Go underground, to the laboratory and on a business inspection to see pollution detectives in action – and find out about simple things you can do to help at [www.seattle.gov/util/protectduwamish](http://www.seattle.gov/util/protectduwamish).

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